



# TERRORISM AWARENESS FOR RESIDENTS



The security of the City of Takoma Park depends greatly on citizen involvement. No police department can effectively protect life and property without the support and cooperation of the citizens it serves. The Takoma Park Police Department needs your help in countering terrorism. Much like our Neighborhood Watch Program, we ask you to be our eyes and ears. Your reporting of suspicious activity can help thwart a terrorist's criminal intentions.

Terrorists are trained to "blend in" and assimilate to their surroundings. Most terrorist's acts are well organized and well planned. Terrorists will conduct training, surveillance, and "dry runs" prior to the commission of a terrorist act. They like to strike at government and civilian targets in an effort to instill fear. Ironically, though it is the terrorist's intent to instill fear in you, it is you and **your vigilance** that the terrorist fears most!

Reports can be made anytime by dialing **9 - 1 - 1**.

How can you assist?

## **We need you to:**

- Remain alert and be aware of everyday activities in your neighborhood and the city.
- Encourage the involvement of family, friends and neighbors.
- Assume responsibility to observe and report activities that appear out of place or unusual.

## **If you become aware of suspicious activity DO NOT:**

- Take direct action.
- Confront the individual.
- Reveal your suspicions.

## **If you become aware of suspicious activity DO:**

- Record as many details as possible.
- Notify the appropriate authorities as soon as possible.

## **Describing possible events:**

- **Who** did I observe?
- **What** specifically did I see?
- **Where** did I observe the suspicious behavior?
- **When** did I observe the suspicious behavior?
- **Why** do I think the behavior is suspicious?

## **Ways to improve observation skills:**

- Employ good listening skills.
- Do not let personal feelings interfere with the incident.
- Look at the entire situation before making a judgment.
- Watch for non-verbal communication signs.
- Use feedback to obtain and verify information or observations.
- Observe and report.
- Do not become personally involved.

